

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 GAC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 ACDA-19 OMB-01 IO-12 EB-11 M-03 SIG-02 CU-04

AID-20 AGR-20 COME-00 PC-04 TRSE-00 LAB-06 RSR-01

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R 270937 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4145

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1809

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY

SUBJECT: FY 74 PARA - MALAYSIA: DEFENSE TARGETS

REF: STATE 075135

1. EXTERNAL DEFENSE:

A. WE WOULD HOPE GOM WOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN FIVE POWER DEFENSE ARRANGMENT (FPDA). RECENT INDICATIONS SUGGEST MALAYSIANS CONTINUE TO VALUE MARGIN OF ADDED SECURITY RESULTING FROM ARRANGMENT, BUT, AT THIS POINT, FPDA'S FUTURE VIABILITY APPEARS TO REST PRIMARILY ON INTENTIONS OF AUSTRALIANS.

B. IN VIEW OF FRAGILITY FPDA, GOM HAS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN TO UPGRADE AN INDEPENDENT CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE AGAINST ITS PERCEPTION EXTERNAL THREAT. IN THIS CONTEXT IT HAS RECENTLY MADE SUBSTANTIAL PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT FROM US, E. G. ARMORED VEHICLES AND F-5 AIRCRAFT. MALAYSIANS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT DECISIONS ON SUCH PURCHASES WILL BE MADE INDEPENDENTLY AND WITHOUT REFERENCE TO FPDA. GROWING PREFERENCE FOR US EQUIPMENT SUGGESTS THAT US SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE IN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION FOR FUTURE SALES.

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C. UP TO THIS POINT WE BELIEVE DEVELOPING GOM CAPABILITY IS GENERALLY REASONABLE BOTH IN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC TERMS, AND WOULD EXPECT THAT IN FUTURE MALAYSIANS WILL MAINTAIN THIS BALANCED PERSPECTIVE .

2. COUNTER- INSURGENCY: EAST AND WEST MALAYSIA
INSURGENCIES LIKELY TO REMAIN PRINCIPAL SECURITY THREATS TO MALAYSIA OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS. WHILE GOM MILITARY CAPABILITY SUFFICIENT TO CONTAIN CURRENT DANGER, WE WOULD HOPE MALAYSIAN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE QUALITY OF ITS COUNTER- INSURGENCY FORCES. EFFORT SHOULD BE BROAD- BASED AND INCLUDE TAILORING GROUND AND AIR ARMS TO SUCH OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS.

3. COMMUNAL ISSUE: MALAYSIA' S VOLATILE RACIAL
PROBLEM PRESENTS CONSTANT POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNAL VIOLENCE AND WE SEE NO SUBSTANTIAL ABATEMENT OF THIS THREAT THROUGH 1978. IN LIGHT OF THIS, MALAYSIAN ARMED FORCES SHOULD DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN CAPABILITY TO AUGMENT EFFORTS OF LOCAL SECURITY FORCES IN PREVENTING CIVIL STRIFE AND TO EFFECTIVELY QUELL OR LIMIT SCOPE OF ANY OUTBREAKS WHICH MIGHT OCCUR.

4. PIRACY AND SMUGGLING: PIRACY AND SMUGGLING ARE ENDEMIC PROBLEMS ALONG AREAS OF MALAYSIA' S COASTLINE. ASIDE FROM CIVIL DEPRIVATIONS AND ECONOMIC LOSSES, THESE ACTIVITIES

COULD ASSIST INSURGENTS BY SUPPLYING ARMS AND CADRES FROM ABROAD. GOM HAS BEEN BUILDING UP NAVY, AS WELL AS COOPERATION WITH INDONESIA AND TO SOME EXTENT THAILAND TO REDUCE PROBLEM. WE WOULD HOPE GOM WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS DEVELOP UNILATERAL CAPABILITY AND INTENSIFY COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH NEIGHBORING STATES IN PROTECTING ITS COSTLINE.

CHESLAW

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